



## **GOAT & SHEEP INVESTMENT AREA**

*(Approved August 17, 2001)*

*(Updated March 20, 2009)*

This document provides eligible investments and is considered to be minimum standards by which an investment area is to be implemented.

Counties shall place a dollar cap on the maximum cost-share of a producer up to \$7,500 for the 12-month period from the execution date of the legal agreement between the administrator and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Funded participants shall adhere to all local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

Questions concerning these guidelines should be directed to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627. Application for funds must be directed through the local County Agricultural Development Council(s).

### **I. Eligible Cost Share Items**

#### **A. On-farm Goat/Sheep Handling**

##### **Cost Share Items:**

1. **Commercial head gate and holding chute**
2. **Tilt table or sheep sling**
3. **Working chute**
4. **Crowding tub and gate**
5. **Panels & Gates**
6. **Loading chute**
7. **Footbath**
8. **Drench gun and reservoir**
9. **Foot trimmers**
10. **Small livestock scales**
11. **Feeders:** Bunk or creep feeders
12. **Goat Tote**
13. **Portable Kidding Pen**

14. **Lambing jugs/pen**
15. **Renovated and New Facilities**
16. **Bi-nocular microscope, freeswinging centrifuge, test tube racks:** Basic equipment for testing for internal parasites.
17. **FAMACHA chart:** to measure anemia
18. Computer hardware and software to assist in performance record keeping and financial management
19. One-half the cost of participation in the Kentucky Farm Business Management Program
20. One-half the cost of membership in a producer-owned marketing cooperative

#### **Prerequisites**

- **\$2,000 is the maximum** cost-share for handling equipment per farm. Equipment must be owned and maintained by the producer for a minimum of five years.
- A **minimum herd size of 20** breeding females is required to qualify for equipment cost share.

#### **B. Buck/Ram and/or Semen Purchase for Herd/Flock Improvement**

##### **Cost Share Items**

1. **Bucks** must be at least 6 months of age, in good health, have all required health papers, and be up to date on their CDT vaccinations. Bucks must be registered full bloods or purebreds with permanent identification.

**Ownership Requirements:** Ownership of bucks must be maintained for a minimum of **two (2) successive breeding seasons**. The only exceptions are listed below:

- a. **Genetic Diversification Clause** – In the event that a producer retains female offspring sired by the buck for use as breeding stock, the buck may be sold, **but MUST be replaced by another buck of equal or greater value. The replacement animal is not eligible for cost-share funds.**
  - b. **Emergency Early Release Clause** – The local program administrator <sup>1</sup>shall reserve the right to approve an early release, if it is determined that an animal, due to physical or disposition problems, is no longer considered sound for breeding purposes. The local program administrator can require the animal to undergo an examination by a licensed veterinarian to assist in determination.
2. **Semen** purchases from registered meat or dairy bucks will be allowed.
  3. **Rams** must be at least 4 months of age, in good health, and must be up to date on their CDT vaccinations. Rams must be permanently identified. Rams must be QR or RR to qualify for cost-share.

**Ownership Requirements:** Ownership of rams must be maintained for a minimum of **two (2) successive breeding seasons**. The only exceptions are listed below:

- a. **Genetic Diversification Clause** – In the event that a producer retains female offspring sired by the ram for use as breeding stock, the ram may be sold, but **MUST** be replaced by another ram of equal or greater value. The replacement animal is not eligible for cost-share funds.
- b. **Emergency Early Release Clause** – The local program administrator <sup>2</sup>shall reserve the right to approve an early release, if it is determined that an animal, due to physical or disposition problems, is no longer considered sound for breeding purposes. The local program administrator can require the animal to undergo an examination by a licensed veterinarian to assist in determination.

### **Prerequisites**

- Bucks and rams will be cost shared on a 50-50 basis up to a **maximum of \$1,000** per producer.
- All bucks/rams purchased through this program must have a **Breeding Soundness Exam**, using one of the two methods below, prior to receiving cost-share funds.

The cost of the exam should be negotiated between the buyer and the seller and may be included in the cost of the buck/ram purchase. The breeding soundness exam is the buyer's best insurance that the buck/ram will be fertile and productive.

1. **Semen Evaluation:** Semen evaluation is the only highly accurate method to evaluate the breeding soundness of bucks/rams. It is recommended that the Breeding Soundness Exam include semen evaluation through either an electronic procedure or collection with a teaser.
  - a. A licensed veterinarian must perform the semen evaluation.
  - b. The veterinarian must provide a signed statement certifying the results of the evaluation.
  - c. A written guarantee from the breeder that the buck/ram will be replaced, if it does not produce a kid/lamb crop, shall be provided in order to qualify for cost-share. This replacement is to be with a registered animal of equal value.
  - d. Should it be proven that failure to produce offspring was caused by the buyer due to undernourishment, injury, etc. the breeder will not be required to provide a replacement. Negligence by the buyer must be confirmed by a second physical examination, conducted by a licensed veterinarian.
2. **Physical Examination:** If semen evaluation is not an available service in the county, then the following guidelines must be followed for the Breeding Soundness Exam:
  - a. Physical examination, including the following, shall be conducted by a veterinarian
    - i. Examination of eyes, legs, and scrotum;
    - ii. Numbers, size, and texture of the testicles;
    - iii. Body condition of the buck/ram;

- iv. Scrotal circumference (a breeding age buck of at least 7 – 8 months of age should have a scrotal circumference of 25 centimeters or more); and
  - v. Presence of a diagnosed abscess shall disqualify a buck/ram from this cost-share program.
- b. A signed statement shall be provided by a veterinarian, certifying that the buck/ram has been examined and that the buck/ram is healthy, physically sound and capable of breeding.
  - c. A written guarantee from the breeder that the buck/ram will be replaced, if it does not produce a kid/lamb crop, shall be provided in order to qualify for cost-share. This replacement is to be with a registered animal of equal value.
  - d. Should it be proven that failure to produce offspring was caused by the buyer due to undernourishment, injury, etc. the breeder will not be required to provide a replacement. Negligence by the buyer must be confirmed by a second physical examination, conducted by a licensed veterinarian.

#### **Recommendations**

- It is recommended that the seller be a member of a national goat breeder's organization. This recommendation will help protect the buyer.
- It is recommended that producers purchase breeding stock within Kentucky, whenever possible. This will minimize the stress of transportation and potential introduction of diseases and parasite strains not common to this area.

### **C. Buck/Ram Lease for Herd/Flock Improvement**

#### **Cost Share Item**

1. **Bucks for lease** must be at least 6 months of age, in good health, have all required health papers, and be up to date on their CDT vaccinations. Bucks must be registered full bloods with permanent identification.
2. **Ram lease**

#### **Prerequisites**

- Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis.
- Producer must have **less than 25** does in order to participate in a lease program.
- Producer should have an established relationship with a food animal veterinarian and develop a health and parasite security program (see attached sample). This will help promote long-term herd sustainability and minimize herd management problems for new producers.
- Contracts should be signed between the lessor and the lessee to outline the length of the lease as well as the expected care of the buck during the lease. Contracts should also state the responsible party in the event of injury, illness or death of the buck.

- Bucks will be cost shared on a 50-50 basis up to a **maximum of \$250** per producer. Rams will be cost-shared on a 50-50 basis up to a maximum of \$100 for a registered ram or \$50 for a cross-bred ram.
- Producers must have attended at least one goat/sheep management seminar, during the prior year, to receive cost-share funds. Proof consists of a certificate of attendance or letter from the organization sponsoring the even.

## D. Breeding Female Purchase

### Cost Share Items

**Breeding females** should appear healthy, have required health papers, and be up to date on their CDT vaccinations. Females need not be registered, but should have permanent identification.

**Ownership Requirements:** Ownership of does must be maintained two (2) years. The only exception is listed below:

**Emergency Early Release Clause<sup>3</sup>** – The local program administrator shall reserve the right to approve an early release, if it is determined that an animal, due to physical or disposition problems, is no longer considered sound for breeding purposes. The local program administrator can require the animal to undergo an examination by a licensed veterinarian to assist in determination.

### Prerequisites

- Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis.
- Producer should have an established relationship with a food animal veterinarian and develop a health and parasite security program (see attached sample). This will help promote long-term herd sustainability and minimize herd management problems for new producers.
- **\$200 is the maximum** cost share available per breeding female.
- Breeding females will be cost shared on a 50-50 basis up to a **maximum of \$1,500 per producer**.
- Producers must have attended at least one goat/sheep management seminar, during the prior year, to receive cost-share funds. Proof consists of a certificate of attendance or letter from the organization sponsoring the even.

## E. Dairy Facilities for Goats

### Cost Share Items

1. Milking equipment
2. Feedways, forage mixers, feeding equipment systems
3. Renovation of existing dairy barns or existing tobacco barns into dairy facilities
4. Construction of new dairy facilities where no buildings exist for renovation

5. Animal and raw milk transport equipment (excluding motorized vehicles)
6. Cooling and raw milk storage equipment
7. Manure collection and distribution equipment
8. Equipment essential to provide on-farm value-added processing
9. Computer hardware and software to assist in performance record keeping and financial management
10. One-half the cost of participation in the Kentucky Farm Business Management Program
11. One-half of the cost of membership in a producer-owned marketing cooperative
12. Promotional and advertising materials in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, and not to include products or services provided by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture or other state programs.
13. On-farm direct-to-consumer sales cost-share items:
  - a. Construction of new permanent structures or conversion of existing structures to be used for retail sale of product.  
  
**[Meeting rooms, exposition centers, educational facilities and construction or improvements to buildings serving primarily as residences are not eligible cost share items.]**
  - b. Site preparation including on-site utility extensions and officially permitted on-site waste treatment facilities
  - c. Refrigerated equipment for storing product
  - d. Display equipment, including refrigerated equipment, to assist in selling of product

## **F. Wool Processing & Value-added Production**

### **Cost Share Items**

1. **Carding, spinning, knitting, felting, weaving equipment:** Machines or hand equipment can provide the producer the ability to make their wool into a sellable product without leaving their farm.
2. **Dyes and dyeing supplies:** Adding color to wool for the spinning or knitting market enhances the price of the product.
3. **One-half the cost of guild membership** in a fiber organization.
4. **On-farm direct-to-consumer sales** cost-share items:
  - a. Construction of new permanent structures or conversion of existing structures to be used for retail sale of product.

**[Meeting rooms, exposition centers, educational facilities and construction**

**or improvements to buildings serving primarily as residences are not eligible cost share items.]**

- b. Site preparation including on-site utility extensions and officially permitted on-site waste treatment facilities
- c. Refrigerated equipment for storing product
- d. Display equipment to assist in selling of product

## **Considerations for Goat Health and Parasite Security**

### **Health Recommendations for Purchased Goats:**

Purchased goats should have access to good quality forage and clean water as soon as possible after arrival to the farm.

Purchased goats should be isolated from other goats for 30 days following purchase. This assists the buyer in identifying and treating any diseases and prevents the transmission of disease to other goats in the herd.

A certificate of veterinary inspection dated within the last 30 days with individual animal identification numbers must accompany goats purchased from out of state. The Kentucky State Veterinarian, depending on the state of origin, may require other documents. To obtain specific health requirements, have your veterinarian contact the State Veterinarian's Office.

Purchased goats should be up to date on their CDT vaccinations. If an accurate record of the latest CDT vaccination is not available, it is best to give every purchased animal a CDT vaccination upon arrival.

### **Parasite Control Recommendations for Purchased Goats:**

Purchased goats should be de-wormed with two products of different chemical classes (see chart below) upon arrival at the farm. Fecal samples should be collected 7-10 days later and examined for worm eggs. These precautions will help prevent the introduction of new possible drug resistant strains of gastrointestinal nematodes.

Based on fecal samples collected 7-10 days following de-worming, consideration should be given to the use of a *coccidia* control product during the isolation period.

### **Classes and Trade Names of Popular De-wormers**

<b>Trade Names</b>	<b>Class</b>
Panacur, Safe-Guard, Valbazen	A
Rumatel, Tramisol	B
Ivomec, Dectomax	C
Cydectin, Quest	D